

# Lake Armington Association

## Annual Meeting Minutes

August 16, 2014

The 2014 Annual Meeting was hosted by Lynn and Bob Dennison on Sirecho Shores Road on August 16. The day was cloudy and cool, and about 38 people attended including Colin Stubbings, Piermont Board of Selectmen Chair and Tim Cole, Fire Department Training Manager. Evie Conroy and Shirley Nicol accepted people's dues and donations, sold LAA coffee mugs and handed out Directories.

**Greeting** - Alice Wellington opened the meeting and introduced Colin Stubbings and Tim Cole.

### **Emergency Response – Colin Stubbings and Tim Cole**

- The Board of Selectmen and other town departments are aware of the emergency response time issue and are trying to arrive at a workable solution, in the midst of budget constraints.
- Today, 911 calls in Piermont go to Grafton County dispatch where "highly trained personnel" assess the severity of the call and assign it a level A/B/C/D, based on answers the caller gives to dispatch's questions. Grafton dispatch then contacts the regional dispatch in Hanover that tracks the location of all ambulances in the area. Hanover dispatch assigns the ambulance that's closest to the incident's location.
- Many parts of this region are remote service areas, and it can take more than 30 minutes to reach an incident, depending on where the responding ambulance is located when called.
- The ambulance may come from Upper Valley in Fairlee, or another ambulance service that's closer, depending on where all the ambulances are located when the call comes in.
- Most important message: people must give clear and accurate information to Grafton County dispatch re: the nature of the emergency, its exact location and if it's life-threatening or not.

### **Treasurer's Report – Kate Merritt, handout provided**

- 2013 LAA expenses were \$6,070 and net income was \$6,635, excluding the Common Reed project. The Common Reed eradication project was funded by a \$7,000 donation; its expenses were \$2,580, leaving \$4,420 for next the next years.
- 2014 LAA expenses to date are \$3,490, with a deficit net income of -\$1,067 as 2014 dues/donations are still coming in.
- In 2014 to date, the Common Reed project has spent \$850, with a total of \$2700 expected this year, which will result in a remaining \$1,720 for next year.
- Key Points: LAA has sufficient funds to manage the short-term deficit. The Common Reed project will need an estimated additional \$1,000 for mandatory post-treatment water testing.
- Basic messages: LAA is in good financial condition, is managed conservatively, and is meeting its basic expenses. We need to continue to develop a 'cushion' to prepare for new environmental threats, well within reach *if people contribute at the same level as last year.*

### **Lake Host**

- Wendy is reducing her role as Point Person at the end of this season
- Many thanks to Wendy for starting the Lake Host program here and for her years of service
- A group is working on who/how to carry on this key program
- We discussed educational efforts at other entry points around the lake besides the public boat launch. There has been good cooperation with Aldrich's Landing and Piermont Place.
- We need to reach out to renters in summer rental cottages to raise awareness.

### **Weed Watchers**

- Lynn Demerchant provided new Weed Watcher's caps with new LAA logo. Thank you!!
- And another thank you to Lynn and her graphics designer Kerrie Hoban for creating the new LAA logo.
- Evie Conroy reported the program has gone well this year with active participation from volunteers in spite of inconsistent weather conditions.

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## **Fund Raising and LAA Coffee Mugs**

- Coffee mugs are for sale at \$10 each to raise money for LAA, featuring our new logo.
- You may buy them at the lake, contact Polly Tafrate or Carlos Manrique, through the end of September.
- Lynn Demerchant worked with graphics designer Kerrie Hoban on the new logo on the lovely mugs. Thank you!
- Ann Soloway will send a fund-raising letter to Camp Walt Whitman alumni and offer a mug for donations made at the \$50 level and above. Thank you Ann.

## **Water Quality Testing**

- Mike Poole reported the lake water quality remains excellent. Testing is now done at the Concord lab, as the state closed the one in Plymouth. He will provide a link to the report at the end of the season.
- Brad Caswell is providing an update to his Lake Armington Water Quality report that will be posted on the LAA website, on the Water Quality page.
- Brad also said that data on acid rain shows that its impact has decreased as hoped due to conservation efforts in the past 20 years.

## **Common Reed / Phragmites**

- Brad Caswell provided an update on the Common Reed project, showing good results. A treatment will be done by Lycott Environmental in early September, and water testing will be performed thereafter as required.

## **Ice-Out Contest Winners – Congratulations**

- First prize: Sam Rounds, Second prize: Wendy Cahill, Third prize: Ken Settel
- Ice-Out was April 24, 2014 at 9:45 AM
- Thank you to all who participated, and to Carlos Manrique and Todd Langley who made it happen.

## **Boat Parade**

- Lynn Demerchant said she, Nicole Dion and Amy Denson (the Davis family) talked about reviving the Boat Parade that used to happen every summer. Should we do this again?
- Vote: a majority of the members voted to pursue doing this.

## **Selling Donated Items**

- Brad Caswell suggested we look into raising money by selling donated items online or by an auction. The board will discuss this idea further.

## **Remembrance**

- We observed a moment of silence and shared remembrances for Lake Armington folks who passed away in the past year: Lucia Davis, Charlie Hines, Bob Poole, Joan Seifert and Irma Waterman.

## **Voting on Slate for 2015 Board of Directors**

- The new Board of Directors was elected by the LAA members present:
  - Alice Wellington, president
  - Polly Tafrate, vice president
  - Kate Merritt, treasurer\*
  - Sam Rounds, recording secretary\*
  - Lynn Dennison, corresponding secretary\*
  - Evie Conroy\*
  - Lynn Demerchant
  - Shirley Nicol
  - Ann Soloway\*(4<sup>th</sup> term)\*begins a new 2-year term. Un-starred directors are up for renewal or replacement next year.